

Washington Immunization School Entry (K- 12) Guidance for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

Washington State may be receiving families with students from states affected by Hurricane Katrina. The students can be admitted on a conditional basis. The following guidance is provided to assist local areas in facilitating each student's entry into our schools.

School Entry/Conditional Admission:

Interim Immunization Recommendations for Individuals Displaced by Hurricane Katrina developed by the CDC can be accessed at:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/vaccrecdisplaced>

It is important to consider these children in a similar fashion to how we currently work with homeless students as outlined in our Immunization Manual for Schools, Preschools and Child Care facilities. Students must be allowed to enroll, attend classes and participate fully in school activities even if the student does not have immunization records. (McKinney-Vento Act of 1987; 42 USC 11432 <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html#guidance>.)

Once students are enrolled, the homeless liaison must help students get immunizations or immunization records. The "enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the student to the local educational agency liaison who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization records." (No Child Shall Be Left Behind legislation.)

Students who meet the definition of homeless as outlined in the McKinney-Vento law are not to be excluded due to lack of immunization records. Children who meet this definition may be admitted to school as conditional. If any immunization information is available, a CIS form should be completed.

For information on Washington State preschools/childcares immunization requirements see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/minreqchild05.pdf>

For information on Washington State schools immunization requirements see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/minreqschool05.pdf>

Immunization Documentation Requirements and How to Access to records from states Hurricane Katrina:

Many students may not have immunization documentation at the time of enrollment. Instructions on how to access to records for the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama registries may be of assistance in locating immunization records during the time a student is conditionally enrolled.

For evacuees from Louisiana:

The DOH IP/CP has opened a communications link between the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry and the Louisiana Immunization registry (known as LINKS) so that public health and health care providers in WA can easily check the immunization status of evacuees from Louisiana. Once a health care provider has input a patient's demographic information into the CHILD Profile registry, they can click the "remote registry" button, then click again to query the Louisiana registry for a match on that individual. Any immunizations recorded in LINKS can then be automatically merged into CHILD Profile. While LINKS is a well-populated registry, it may not contain complete immunization histories on all individuals. Since we are opening this

communication link because of the emergency situation, the query capabilities will be one way - from WA to LA. Also important to note, this query is HIPAA compliant.

Detailed instructions for accessing LINKS can be found on the CHILD Profile website at www.childprofile.org

The CHILD Profile Help Desk at 1.800.325.5599 or CPhelpdesk@metrokc.gov can assist with technical issues when trying to access the LINKS registry data.

For evacuees from Mississippi:

DOH IP/CP is currently working towards gaining access to the Mississippi Immunization Registry. Further information will be shared about accessing the Mississippi Immunization data.

For evacuees from Alabama:

It will be necessary to call the Alabama State Immunization Program to try to find out the immunization status of individuals. Their contact information is:

Alabama Department of Public Health
Division of Immunization
Email: spoole@adph.state.al.us or Phone: 334-206-5023
Hours of operation: 7:30a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time

General questions

Questions regarding immunization school entry requirements for evacuees can be addressed to Washington State DOH Immunization Program:

Karen Arbogast, RN
Office 360.236.3540
Cell 360.701.3656

Ruth McDougall, RN
Office 360.236.3760
Cell 206.300.7951

Remember to provide evacuees with a Washington State Lifetime Immunization Record. Cards are available on-line at http://www3.doh.wa.gov/here/materials/PDFs/15_ImmuCard_E05L.pdf